

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-08

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AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNESCO, PORG, OCON

SUBJECT: AFRICANS MAY BE SEARCHING FOR WAY TO AVOID
CONFRONTATION WITH WEST IN NAIROBI ON MASS MEDIA

REF: PARIS 28012

1. ON SEPT 27, DELOFF PAID VISIT TO SENEGAL'S ACTING
PERM REP DOUDOU DIENE, TO CONFIRM HIS EARLIER PROPOSAL TO
A BELGIAN COLLEAGUE THAT AN ALTERNATE RESOLUTION ON
MASS MEDIA, SUITABLE TO BOTH AFRICAN AND WESTERN STATES,
SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE CURRENT
DRAFT DECLARATION.

2. DIENE CONFIRMED HE HAD PROPOSED THIS EXERCISE TO
AVOID ZIONISM RACISM EQUATION IN EXPERT'S DEC. DRAFT
DECLARATION, AND TO DEVELOP MORE IDEOLOGICALLY BALANCED
APPROACH TO MASS MEDIA ISSUE. HE EMPHASIZED WITHOUT
ELABORATION THAT MANY AFRICAN STATES FAVORED A MASS MEDIA
DECLARATION MORE "IDEOLOGICALLY BALANCED" THAN
ORIENTATION OF DEC. DRAFT DECLARATION.

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3. DIENE ADMITTED TO DIFFICULTIES IN BRINGING ARAB STATES TO THIS POINT OF VIEW, ESPECIALLY REGARDING ZIONISM RACISM ISSUE, AND BECAUSE THEY SEEM TO FEEL SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESENT DRAFT DECLARATION. HE ALSO SAID SOVIETS ARE STOLIDLY BEHIND AND PUSHING THEIR "FRIENDLIES" TO INSIST ON HARD LINE IDEOLOGY. CONCLUDING, DIENE SAID HE WOULD KEEP US INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS, BUT NOT TO EXPECT ANYTHING FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

4. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT DIENE HAS ANY BROAD MANDATE FROM OTHER AFRICAN STATES TO NEGOTIATE A MORE BALANCED APPROACH ON MASS MEDIA, ALTHOUGH SOME LIKELY SHARE HIS VIEWS. RATHER, HE IS PROBABLY UNDERTAKING THESE INITIATIVES WITH THE DIR GEN IN MIND, AND A DESIRE TO PROMOTE A SUCCESSFUL GEN CONF. INSOFAR AS DIENE IS AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF AFRICAN CAUCUS, AS WELL AS CONFIDANT OF DIR GEN, WE HAVE ASSURED HIM THAT WE FOLLOW HIS EFFORTS WITH INTEREST. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT EARLIER REFERENCE PER REFTEL ASSOCIATING TUNISIAN RESOLUTION WITH A THIRD ALTERNATIVE IN MASS MEDIA ISSUE HAS IN FACT TURNED OUT TO BE DIENE'S INITIATIVE.

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